



BREEDERS' WEEKLY

This week for Breeder's profile we caught up with Brian West the co-breeder of Lazarus the 2016 NZ Derby winner.

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PAGE 4 BRIAN WEST



BOSSY 'BESS' FORCES THE FORD'S HAND

Clint Ford and Marcoola break their own NZ 3yo record for 2600m by a full second in winning the NZ Trotting Derby at Addington last Friday

One by one, the Ford family gave up on Arabess.

Think of a bad name, and that's what they'd call her.

Ken, his wife Diane and their daughter Amanda Tomlinson always played it safe when she was around. They actually felt better if she wasn't around at all.

"You could never walk behind her," said Amanda.

There was nothing they liked about her: Clint could have her – and he did.

"We were never a fan," said Ken.

"I know Clint offered Amanda a share in her three or four times, and she always said no. But Clint always had faith in her. He knew how fast she could run; it was just a matter of how to manage her."

When he did, it was a team project after that. She raced 46 times, and the driving duties were shared between the two, and she won three races.

Marcoola is her only foal. This season she's been served by the young US stallion, Trixton.

"We never sent her back to the horse simply because we were frightened of her," said Ken.

"We were lucky if we could pat her. We had to get her into the cattle yards if we wanted to do anything with her. That was the only reason. We look a bit silly now. When Marcoola started looking good we knew we had to change our mind, so that's why we sent her to Nevele R Stud this season. I know they had no trouble with her. She's not like she was, now."

Her great grandam is Kahlum, whose third foal was Lyell Creek, who qualified

as a pacer one month and as a trotter the next, and became a champion, winning 56 races and \$2,961,137.

From Kahlum, the Fords bred 11 foals, and Laurel Creek, by Wingspread, was the first.

"She was really good and could run time, but she had an accident and we never tried her after that," said Ken.

Her next foal was Lumlum, by Grant Our Wishes, and after an injury she went straight to stud. Then came The Iron Gate, who gave Clint his first driving win – at Hawera – followed by two of no account, and Lukes Creek who was sold to Tim Butt. To Courage Under Fire, she clicked and left Jacquimo, the winner of six and three of them for Clint. Her last four were Many Happy Returns, Sweet Chic, Little Mo, a slow class trotter doing a nice job, and Incognito Red.

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Laurel Creek and Lumlum became the key members of the family, with Lumlum's contribution being Spirit Of Sun, a smart mare by Sundon in foal to Peak and the dam of a filly foal this season by Superfast Stuart.

Laurel Creek has given them nine foals – Amici, Becky (1 win, now with Len Mosley), Arabess (3), Zaneys, Sixty Plus (3 wins and served by Majestic Son), Filigree Sheree (1 win, in foal to Sundon and now with Neil Edge), Julietta, Amaretto Sun (5 wins from 16 starts and with the potential to go further) and Laurelson, a 16.2 hands 3-year-old filly by Monarchy who will get her chance.

In the meantime, Clint, the family son who runs a contracting business, has just arrived in Auckland, where Maroola and his stablemate Little Mo will race twice before returning home.

It will be Clint's first drive at Alexandra Park.

And while that's not expected to be an issue, Ken knows for sure it won't worry the horse.

"He works better the Auckland way. He'll fly round," he said.

All going well, he'll be back up for the Jewels, and his companion on that trip will be Amaretto Sun.

They have done the Jewels before – Arabess made the cut as a 2-year-old, and Zachary Binx almost stopped King Denny in his tracks at Ashburton last year, beaten half a neck.

Mike Grainger

CONSULTATION OF EXPORT GUIDANCE MATERIAL

MPI are releasing two new guidelines for the export of live animals for consultation with representatives of persons likely to be affected by them.

These cover the export of:

- horses by sea
- horses by air

The two draft guidelines are attached on our website. To view these guidelines and for information on making a submission, please [click here](#) to be taken to our website.

The closing date for submissions is Thursday 19 May 2016.



Culler Coded wins her first race at start number 17 in the hands of Nathan Williamson at Winton last Sunday

COLOURFUL MARE GETS THE JOB DONE!

Nathan Williamson's 600th New Zealand win came aboard a very colourful mare from the North Island. She is trained by David Heffernan of Oamaru for his wife Rebecca and the Splash Out Syndicate of Auckland vet Dr Catherine Pemberton and members of her family.

Culler Coded is a descendant of Splashed, a skewbald mare who had two foals by Christian Cullen, both of which were skewbalds. The colt, Tomahawk, had six starts and his best result was a second on debut at Alexandra Park in September 2006. The filly, Cullermein, won three. She is the dam of Realmein, a bay by Real Desire, who has won ten and is still racing.

She is also the dam of Culler Coded, a skewbald by American Ideal. Her second at Franklin in August 2014 was

her best result in 10 starts for Catherine Pemberton's husband Matthew. Rebecca Heffernan said her first contact with the Pembertons was when she rang to ask about a service to Tomahawk in a bid to get a skewbald foal.

"She said we can't transport his semen, we'll send the stallion down to you," Heffernan said.

Tomahawk duly arrived and served two Heffernan mares and one outsider before being returned. Unfortunately, both of the Heffernan mares had bay foals and one of them died. The other is now a two year old filly. Out of Meadow, and named Tommy Girl, Heffernan said she has just been broken in. The outside mare was a skewbald herself and left a skewbald foal.

Heffernan kept in touch with the Pembertons and got a phone call last year to see if she wanted Culler Coded to try as a racehorse.

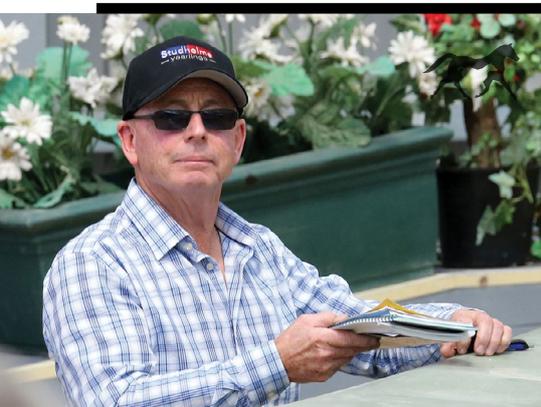
"She had been sold to Ireland but it fell through," Heffernan said, "I leased her and they retained a small racing share."

Culler Coded began her South Island racing career in January but had tie-up problems.

"Since we took her off grain she has turned the corner," Heffernan said.



BREEDER'S PROFILE



Brian West

This week we talk with one of our most well-known, successful and prolific breeders. The breeder of Lazarus, A Bit of A Legend and Secret Potion just to name three Brian West is known for his passion for the standardbred and his deep commitment to seeking to improve the quality of the breed. Now well established at his property at Coe's Ford, Brian reflects on his 40 years in this sport.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN HARNESS RACING?

I was introduced to harness racing as an early teenager by my grandfather who took me to the weekend trots. Somehow I fell in love with the standardbreds along the way. At 15, with no farming background, I told the world that I was going to own a horse farm! It was a bit ridiculous.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN BREEDING STANDARDBREDS?

I bred my first horse 38 years ago!

In 1986 I established Yonkers Breeding Partnership with four friends and 100 investors. This was the first non-hobby breeding operation for me. The Labour government then suddenly changed the tax rules. Yonkers had to change in 1989 and continue with about 10 of the partners remaining to breed from the best mares. The partnership operated at a profit for 12 years and then morphed into my business Studholme Bloodstock.

FIRST HORSE YOU BRED?

It was 1978 she was a Timely Knight filly, Pride of Time. I borrowed the mare (dam Harbour's Pride) off Nellie Burrell from Mosgiel. This was the Cardigan Bay family. She was very small and I took her through the sales and made no money! Although none of this appears in HRNZ's records!!

The first official foal bred was in 1980 a Lordship - Nina Averil - True Averil colt that did not make it.

FIRST WINNER YOU BRED?

My first winner was Zeppelin (Lordship - Nina Averil) bred in 1981 which won his first start at Winton in November 1986.

WHY DO YOU BREED STANDARDBREDS?

I was locked into breeding full-time from 1989. I went from making proper money and a proper business and a hobby to giving Yonkers Breeding Partnership two years. After that time is was margin but we kept going for another two years, in hope, and here I am today. I never saw enough money to buy a private jet. The only way we could keep our heads above water was to sell all the foals. This enabled us to keep going.

Passion drives me. In both my supermarket career, which I loved, and breeding I get in deeply with commitment. In breeding it is the love of the horses. My father was very unhappy about me becoming involved with the horses but he could see, disapprovingly, that it was my dream.

So the short answer to the question is that I am now well and truly locked into a sport and business that I am passionate about!

FAVOURITE HORSE YOU BRED?

Secret Potion (1.57.5, \$285,312, who won both the Great Northern Oaks (Group 1) and the Nevele R Fillies Final (Group 1). My ultimate dream as a breeder was to win the NZ Oaks. I never dreamt that I would also be the owner. My dream was to breed the Oaks winner! The year previous to took three fillies to the sales and they sold poorly.

I made the decision to sell the colts and race the fillies. That was a very good move. Secret Potion's win was my dream result. I said to myself that I could now relax and enjoy the balance of the ride, wherever it took me.

It was a very special time as I had purchased Lancome (1.54.9, \$461,278, winner of 13 including the Harness Jewels 4yo Diamond (Group 1)) out of Jack Smolenski's great family. I had hardly ever purchased a filly as I had too many of my own. I had always wanted that family, and a filly, and as a result I ended up with two very smart fillies that were broken in together, stayed together and race together on occasions.

FAVOURITE STALLION?

The evolution and modernising of the bred is so rapid. We have Jack Rice in the US to thank for pushing USTA to allow shuttle stallions. We should not forget John Curtin's leading role. Without their work we would not have got access as early as we did and modernise our bred.

Lumber Dream was a quality stallion. Then we had the contribution of Soky's Atom, a big jump especially for our fillies and mares. Now we have access to the best trotting and pacing blood. Bettor's Delight is so sensational and incredible, but he will be replaced.

Soky's Atom has to be in the top four - he has been incredibly influential. He had a speed gene, perhaps from Adios.

In The Pocket also deserves a special mention as the first shuttle stallion who made a massive contribution to our breed.

But there are a couple of others that have impressed me over the years and not recognised as the quiet achievers, bottom end sires, including Key Club (by Keystoner) who stood in Tapanui and Able Bye Bye (by Bye Bye Bird) which Dave Philipps bought out.

HAVE YOU BRED ANYTHING THIS SEASON?

We bred 30 mares this year and have 27 foals on the ground. Weaning is almost completed.

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I have three I really like: a gorgeous Art Major filly out of Lancome that is going to the sales; an Art Major colt from Under The Odds (Bettor's Delight - Under Cover Lover) whose brother has won five in WA, and my favourite a Bettor's Delight colt from My Style (McArdle - Simply Devine - In The Pocket) a filly I raced in NSW whose 2YO filly won its first start recently in Sydney and the full brother was sold to Todd McFarlane's client Aron Lowe for syndication at this year's sales.

ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE CHANGE FOR BREEDERS?

I am so concerned at the split between the elite end of the market and the bottom end. I have been at both camps and felt the impact. It is great at the top but we have lost buyers at the bottom in a large volume. In the past you could expect up to \$25,000 for those horses now it is around \$15,000.

I would like to see incentives into encourage breeding to support those passionate people who are working fulltime, losing summers breeding, foals etc and then waiting two years for a return. It is very, very difficult out there now. We are surviving on passionate people. We need to be trying harder to get new blood and young people to come in to breeding. Somehow interest needs to be regenerated.

Breeders need to be rewarded. People do not want to put money down a hole. We cannot expect people from outside the industry to keep it ticking over. We should be standing on our own feet. There needs to be incentives to breed. You cannot encourage people to come into the business currently.

I am not complaining. We have survived. Survival equals success. But I would love to see people making an investment in top-end bloodstock and then making a living from breeding standardbred horses.



DON'T FORGET TO CLAIM YOUR BREEDER BONUS'!!

Any financial member of the New Zealand Standardbred Breeders Association (as of 31st of August 2015) who breeds the winner of a totalisator race at a New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club (Met) meeting (excludes premier days, see T's & C's) held at Addington Raceway will be eligible for a \$500 bonus payment. Bonus also applies to meetings held by the Akaroa, Amberley and Cheviot Trotting Club meetings who pay a Breeder Bonus on their own accord.

Click [here](#) for full terms and conditions.

MARES FOR SALE

QUALITY IN FOAL BROODMARES & WEANLINGS FOR SALE

The NZSBA currently has multiple listings of well-bred mares for sale/lease/free.

To find out more information and to see what is available, please [click here](#). This will direct you to our website, and then click the For Sale/Lease heading in the navigation bar.

N.Z. SIRES STAKES NOMINATIONS & SUSTAINING PAYMENTS DUE JULY 1ST 2016

Foal Nomination	Sires Stakes - Nevele R Fillies
Yearling Sustaining	Sires Stakes - Nevele R Fillies - PGG Wrightson Yearling Sales
3YO Sustaining	Sires Stakes - Nevele R Fillies - PGG Wrightson Yearling Sales

PAYMENTS FOR THESE WILL CLOSE ON 1ST JULY 2016

If you have an email address with HRNZ or have elected not to receive these by email - remittance advices will be emailed early June.

Please note: if you attend on heading away on holiday around this time, please make payments before heading away.

Payment details are available on our website including a blank nomination form if you wish to pay now www.nzsiresstakes.co.nz

Contact the N.Z. Sires Stakes Board

(03) 338-5662 (Chch Office) - (03) 544-8820 (Doreen - Nelson office)





THE NZSBA COORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO



THE BREEDERS' 2016 NEW ZEALAND OAKS

THIS TIME HONOURED RACE HAS A HISTORY OF SHOWCASING STARS OF THE TRACK, WHILE ALSO PUTTING MUCH NEEDED BLACK TYPE OF THE CV'S OF OUR FUTURE BROODMARES. IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT THE PRESTIGIOUS RACE BE SPONSORED BY THE ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE FOR BREEDERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

WE WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS GROUP 1 \$150,000 RACE FOR NEW ZEALAND'S BEST THREE YEAR OLD FILLIES.

DATE: SATURDAY 20TH OF MAY (DAY MEETING)

VENUE: SILKS LOUNGE, ADDINGTON RACEWAY

COST:

INDIVIDUAL SEAT \$95 incl. GST

TABLE \$950 incl. GST

*with opportunity to separately fund your guests drinks

EACH GUEST WILL RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY DRINK ON ARRIVAL, DO BRING CASH/CARD FOR THE BAR

REBECCA MOONEY
E. midfrew@xtra.co.nz
PH. 03 347 7212

MENU

STANDARD BRED LUNCHEON
Parmesan & mixed spiced bread sticks for the table

BUFFET
Herb & garlic mini loaves

SALADS
Potato, egg & ham
Mixed garden leaves
Roasted beetroot & kumara
Rainbow coleslaw

MAIN FARE
Crumbed beef & vegetable skewers
Seafood filled peppers
Spanish prawn pancakes under flaked hot smoked salmon
Asparagus wrapped with bacon with hollandaise
Apple spiced pulled pork sliders
Canterbury lamb leg steaks, Horopito & pink salt rub
Southern bourbon BBQ turkey nibbles
Warm Portabello & button mushroom salad, balsamic onion, spinach & feta with toasted pine nuts

DESSERTS
Seasonal fruit selection
Individual sweet tastes from our kitchen

4.00 pm
Ham on bone carvery



FROM THE AFFILIATES



**NORTH ISLAND
STANDARD BRED BREEDERS'
ASSOCIATION**

**NORTH ISLAND STANDARD BRED
BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
FRANKLIN YEARLING PARADE
SATURDAY 30TH JULY 2016.**

NISBA are organising the annual parade of Yearlings to be paraded at Pukekohe Training Centre. Set the date aside so your yearling is ready to show off in the cart. Great prizes as usual and lunch provided. More info to follow.

SOUTHLAND STANDARD BRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Diamonds Day for the Southern Bred Southern Reared part of the Country. Can we see another Lazarus win the Diamond Creek Two Year Old Classic?

With the long standing Oaks & Supremacy and Southern Country Cups final the day is a must watch for all Harness Racing fans across the land.

Southland Standardbred Breeders are proud to be supporting this huge race day.

PGGW SALES REVIEW - CANTERBURY

Wednesday 20th April at 7pm at Little Sister Café (Swamp Hotel) Islington. Please RSVP to Rachel at PGGW by Monday 18th April for catering purposes

NZ OAKS FUNCTION - SATURDAY 21 MAY (PREMIER DAY MEETING)

Tickets \$95 per person or \$950 per table to support NZSBA fund its NZ Oaks sponsorship. Great menu, plus late carvery to send you on your way. Ring Rebecca Mooney 03 347-7212



THANK GEORGE!

George is greeted by one of his owners, Aaron Lowe, in the Alexandra Park stables pre race

Thanx is no Mireille just yet but the 15-year-old Holdonmyheart mare is certainly making her bid to be the best broodmare that Kelly Edmonds has bred from.

Thanx notched up her ninth New Zealand winner (from four foals) when George won a \$12,000 handicap for the C0 and C1 trotters at Alexandra Park last Friday night.

The Todd Macfarlane trained brown gelding was the eighth favourite in the 12-horse field and paid \$21.80 to win. It was his first win in seven starts and he got there by half a neck.

George, who was named after one of Edmond's son's friends, is the third of four foals left by the late Max Robinson's Lordship mare, Lady Robinson.

"My son Scott named the horses. The first foal - Guerrero (by Sundon) is the Spanish word for 'Warrior'. That now 10-year-old Sundon gelding won four races for Edmonds' husband Murray

before being exported to Australia in February 2012.

He raced in that country under the name of Don Guerrero and has won another six races since then.

Foal number two is a Sundon 8-year-old named Danke. He has won four races for Mark McNamara and his Danke For Coming Syndicate. Danke means thankyou (informally) in German.

"By the time George came along Ken and Mary Bimler had wound down their operation and we put him to Armbror Invasion. They used to breed with us.

"Todd (Macfarlane) was looking for a horse and we sent George up to him late last year. We qualified him at Ashburton last May and said we would race him up there unless he got any buyers. In the end a Syndicate of eight people took over his ownership," Edmonds said.

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The 52-year-old Motukarara horse-woman said she then bred to Great Success who has since left her a 3-year-old black filly named Kiitos. In Finnish 'kiitos' means praise and thanks.

"She has been in the paddock for several months and like George will be a late developer. It seems that our own horses are always the last to be tended to.

"She's a lovely horse and in time we will know exactly where she is at. But she gives us the impression she will go on with it," Edmonds said.

Edmonds said she and her husband Murray had spent several thousand dollars late last year and early this year trying to get Thanx in foal to Bacardi Lindy.

"Sadly that didn't work out, so she will be empty this breeding season. We will look at having her served again later in the year," Edmonds said.

The Edmonds purchased Thanx as a foal from Phillip Iggo. Her dam Lady Robinson, who won four races between January 1981 and October 1983.

She also left Miss Robinson (by Game Pride) eight wins; Game Robinson (Game Pride) five wins; Little Band Of Gold (Gee Whiz II) nine wins; Flip Flop (Gee Whiz II) 10 wins; and The Fat Controller (Britewell) 11 wins.

"Thanx couldn't trot much so we put her in foal and she hasn't looked back since. We were rapt to see George win the other night. He's now five and taken a while to get to the races, but that was just his seventh start so I don't think that will be his last win.

"I think the owners are going to have a lot of fun with him," Edmonds said.

"I saw the race and was going to have a bet and then decided not to. He paid a great price, but I got a lot of satisfaction being the breeder," she added.

Mark Lovell mare, Mireille, is still the best horse Edmonds has bred from.

"She left us Cool Hand Luke (by Holmes Hanover) and when Mark

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Purdon paid \$100,000 for him at the Yearling Sales I thought I had won lotto.

"He went on to win 16 races and almost a quarter of a million dollars in stakes. He finished fourth behind Just An Excuse in the 2003 New Zealand Cup and also won the Noel Taylor Mile," Edmonds said.

Edmonds said she was currently breeding from two mares at Banks Peninsula. They are Thanx and Cam's Trickster mare, Aqua Cam.

Aqua Cam won four races for Richmond trainer Bill Morgan. She is yet to nail a winner from her five foals.

"I love the breeding side of the industry and it was so heartening to see George win the other night. We are always kept very busy but never too busy to breed from our mares," Edmonds said.

Duane Ranger

TROTTING PIONEER GETS HIS JUST REWARDS

Mark Smith's two breeding victories at Alexandra Park and Addington Raceway last Friday night were special in more ways than one.

"I've tried for years to get the French – American cross in our trotting breed and it's now starting to come through. There is no bigger advocate than frozen semen than me.

"No-one really believed in it like I did. I was the one who pushed for it and still believe in it. It cost me \$25,000 to get a Love You – Pine Chip cross via my breed and it's all starting to come to fruition. "I tell you the entire trotting breed in New Zealand will improve ten-fold if we keep on breeding the best to the best," Smith said.

CONT. 10



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The 76-year-old bred Maroola to win the Group One New Zealand 3yo Trotting Derby in Christchurch and then not long after Blackguard's Corner obliged in C1-C3 Trot in Auckland.

Ironically it cost Smith \$25,000 to breed Blackguard's Corner – simply because he wanted to introduce the French breed into Lyell Creek's family.

"Back in 2008 or 2009 it cost me \$25,000 to get Donegal Flat in foal via frozen semen to Love You. The next time I think it was about \$12,000. I remember back then no-one was for the idea at all. Only Derek Jones advocated it with me.

"I'll never forget what I was told when watching the Lyell Creek run in the Elitlopp Final in Sweden (2001) and the great Franco-American trotting giant Jean-Paul Dubois said that if you want to breed champions you have to breed the best with the best.

"I have tried doing that since. It was so satisfying to see two of Lyell Creek's family win on the same night. Maroola might have won the big one but it was just great to see the French blood excel with Blackguard's Corner," said Smith.

"That American-French breed is very powerful," he added.

Maroola, who is by Sundon and out of the Grant Our Wishes mare Arabess, is a great grandson of Kahlum (by Noodlum), who left Lyell Creek (by Roydon Glen).

Blackguard's Corner (Love You – Donegal Flat) is a grandson of Pine Chip and Kahu Del. Donegal Flat was Kahu Del's 14th foal of 17. Kahlum was her first.

"I tried desperately to get Pine Chip semen to serve my mares. Donegal Flat could have gone to open class but she had an inner foot problem. I trained her.

"She won on debut at Westport and then only had three other starts and then I decided to breed from her. Her foot was causing her to break and I always thought she would make a nice broodmare because her mother won five races and raced in the New Zealand Oaks," Smith said.



Blackguards Corner wins at Addington in the hands of Blair Orange

The Ken Ford trained Maroola notched up his sixth win in 10 starts last Friday while Blackguard's Corner has won four from 15 for Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen.

Blackguard's Corner is the second of four New Zealand-bred foals out of Donegal Flat. All four have been put to Love You.

Smith also bred first foal, 6-year-old mare Kincaslough, who has won 10 of her 37 starts. After Blackguard's Corner was born Smith sold Donegal Flat to J-P Dubois' Dream With Me Stables before she was exported to Australia and Pat Driscoll's Yabby Dam Farms in September 2014.

She has also left a 3-year-old named Deauville who has had two unsuccessful starts for trainer Tim Butt and a 2-year-old colt named Bearberry Stride, who is owned by Emilio Rosati in Australia.

In Australia she was put to another French champion sire, Ready Cash and a colt was born in October last year.

"I sold her because she left me a filly and a colt and I was pleased with that. You can't keep them all and I thought the new owners would do a real good job with her," Smith said.

"This is only the start of the French-American bred boom here. Its success is well proven in Europe and America," he added.

Duane Ranger

THE SELLARS STORY

She probably didn't get the national recognition she deserved but Southland mare Leyava certainly did a great job as a broodmare for the Sellars family of Myross Bush.

There are plenty of horse tales about where horses have come from and how luck was involved – right place, right time. This is the story of Leyava and begins in the early 1940's at Seaward Downs just east of Invercargill.

"They had a Rabbit Board cart that came around fumigating rabbits. It was drawn by a horse. My father (Jack Sellars) asked the rabbiters what the horse was. They told him it was a good racehorse named Fortune's Favourite: that Davie Todd trained it. He rang Davie, who said yes he did train it, that it was no bloody good but it was a good family. So Dad ended up paying 25 pounds for her," said Andrew Sellars.

Once in the paddock the family who were relative newcomers to the breeding of standardbreds, had lengthy discussions about which stallion to choose before deciding to send her to Indianapolis, three times New Zealand Cup winner.

From that mating Pollyapolis arrived in 1946.

CONT. P11



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"An old friend of the family, Jack Winter, trained her initially before she went to Wes Butt. She won six races."

Once Pollyapolis's racing days were over Jack Sellars started breeding from her and she left a number a nice horses including Trigside (Flying Song) which won a Gore Cup (1963), and Va Vite which won ten races.

By that time Jack Sellars had also bought from George Youngson, Rustic Maid. She became the dam of twelve winners including 1950 New Zealand Cup winner Chamfer, and 1946 New Zealand Derby winner Free Flight.

"Dad was keen to breed a filly at the end of her career. He said to me that he wasn't going to breed off two horses and asked if I wanted to take Polly (Pollyapolis) saying I could get a foal from her. I thought that was pretty good. Initially I was going to go to U Scott but I was advised because he was in such demand that if I missed out on getting in foal you didn't get any refund. I thought I can't afford that. Clem Scott advised me to go to Garrison Hanover. From that we got Leyava."

A racing partnership between father and son was formed and Jack and Andrew Sellars began racing the mare.

"She had ability, but had a poor attitude to racing. Dave Kerr trained her and she won two races and had numerous placings. After she finished racing I took her over on my own for breeding."

The name Leyava is a combination of



Sassenach winning at Addington 1970 NZ MET 3 yr old Championship

Andrew's wife Shirley and daughter Avalon's names.

"We nearly lost her before we got her in foal the first time. She was on the property here and my neighbour had stored some bags of wheat. She pushed the door open and got an oversupply of wheat into her system. She was very close to dying. The neighbour rang Cliff Irvine in Christchurch and asked him what we should do. He said get her into a good muddy watery area and let her stand in there for a couple of days and she came right. We don't know why it worked but you never questioned Cliff Irvine."

Her first foal was Sassenach by Young Charles.

"I trained him as a two-year old with the help of Henry Skinner. Maurice Skinner had him for a few weeks just to get him used to company. I took him to a few trials and then sent him up to Jim

Winter to train on a training arrangement."

He soon showed Jim that he had ability as a three-year old. He had his first start on Cup Day in the Riccarton Stakes, finishing third when driven by Doug Watts. He won four races at that age including the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club's Three Year Old Championship.

"All the best three year olds in the South Island were in that race. He lost seventy yards at the start and won by three lengths in a New Zealand record time for three-year olds. It was an outstanding performance."

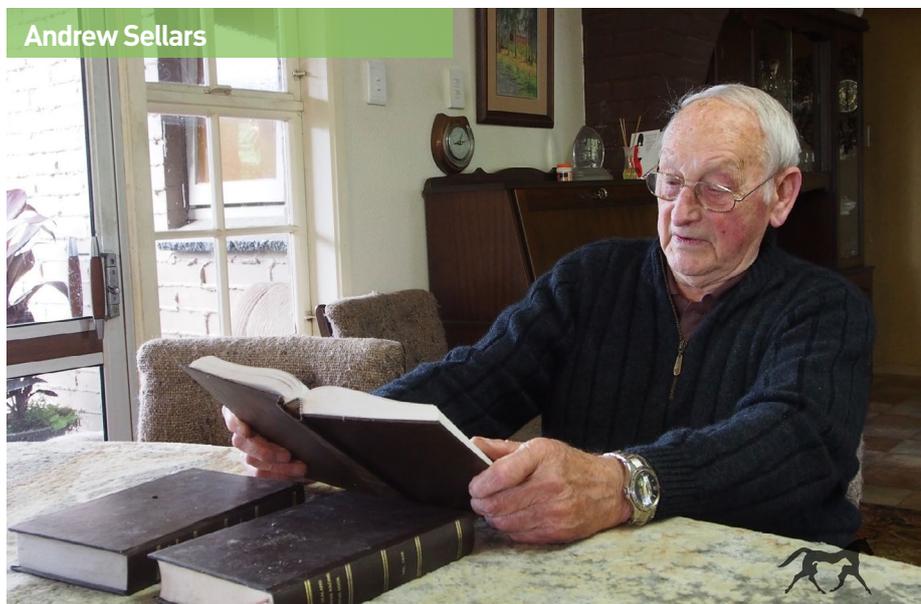
Bob Young at that point had taken over the driving.

"He was a very astute man. A real old Scotsman. We weren't punters but after the Riccarton Stakes we had two or three hundred pounds in stakes money. He was in the Cross Stakes at New Year. I said to Jim that we should just put that stake money on him because he should win that race. We put it on but he broke up badly and he just made up a few places. Jim who was not used to big punting was a bit upset at my suggestion. He mentioned it to Bob who said God if I'd known that I would have tried a bit harder. He thought he could have still won but was just saving the horse!!!"

The following year as a four year old he won six races and started in the 1971 Interdominions Series at Addington.

"He was only a four-year old. He won his first two heats and ran second in his third heat. He was the second highest qualifier for the final behind Holy Hal another Southlander."

CONT. P12



Andrew Sellars



CONT.

The final was won by Junior's Image who was later disqualified after re-turning a positive swab. The promoted winner was Stella Frost.

As a five year old, Sassenach returned to racing at Ashburton in October before progressing to the Cup meeting in Christchurch raced then over four days.

"He was throwing his head around a lot and Bob Young couldn't steer him. One vet suggested that it could have something to do with the seed out of the grass. Jim threw a nose guard on him on the third night and he duly won and was roundly booed because he's been pretty well backed on the first two days."

He came out on the last night of what was a four-day Cup carnival and won the Ollivier Handicap against the Cup horses.

He then travelled north for the Auckland Cup and ran fifth on a wet track showing signs of soreness.

"He was sent home to me and I pottered around with him and treated his legs. I took him to Riverton on the old grass track and won the Riverton Cup with him. Apart from Riverton, which was an equalisator meeting, I couldn't quite get a win with him."

Then export agent Bob McArdle approached Sellars and he was sold to Canada in June 1976.

His New Zealand race record was 78 starts for 12 wins and 6 seconds and 6 thirds.

Leyava's second foal Ryal which was by Canny Scot was also racing and winning races at this stage. Jim Dynes had bought him as a weanling.

He was also fashioning a good racing record and ended up winning eight races including the New Zealand Autumn Stakes and Canterbury Free-For-All in 1973.

He raced against what was a vintage group of open class pacers including Robalan, Speedy Guest, Young Quinn, Hi Foyle and Arapaho.
"He went to America and won 40-odd races over there."

Shavande was Leyava's next foal. He

was by Hundred Proof and was trained by Andrew from his property on Roslyn Road just out of Invercargill.

"He was as good as any of the horses she'd left. He had a very bad attack of strangles. Vet Peter Williams did a hell of a good job to save him."

After being nursed back from this major setback he won a double at Wyndham.

"He also won a Gore Cup and he was sold to America. Doug McNaught thought he was an outstanding horse. He was on his way to Cup class no doubt about that."

The next foal from the mare was Hi Lo's Forbes colt Stylist.

"He had some ability but was bad in his gait when tried at high-speed. Jim Dynes took him over to try and straighten him out. They won a race with him and one for me."

Lumber Dream was the next port of call for Leyava and that mating produced another colt named Profiteer.

"The most intelligent horse I ever had. He was cunning with brilliant speed."

He was trained initially by Sellars and recorded his first win at Wyndham in November 1977 winning by three lengths, running the 2400 metres in 3-08.

"Peter Wolfenden phoned me wanting to buy him but I said he was too good to be selling."

A year later although still racing well, Profiteer was starting to win the battle of the wills in the South so he was sent to Gavin Hampton in Canterbury to train.

"He was sent up prior to the Reefton Cup which was the richest C2 race in the country at that time. He won that race and came back and won two races at Addington. Then Lucky (Profiteer) worked Gavin out so he came back down here."

At that point Sellars had to reinvent the horse's training and racing regime. "I knew the whip and Profiteer didn't go together so I got Austin Stack to drive him. He was a quiet wee driver. He got placing after placing with him but never won. He was running off long marks

and doing not too bad so I whipped him up to Addington and I won with him. I got Paul Hampton (Gavin's son) to drive him because I thought the horse would know Gavin. I've never yelled so loud for a horse."

Profiteer finished his career in March 1982 and commenced a short career in the stallion barn.

He sired 35 live foals and left three winners - Auburn Profit (6 wins), He's A Gun (5 wins) and The Developer (2 wins).

"He was never going to get a lot of mares because he was a cheat, but a very fast one."

Socialite (Armbro Del) was the mare's next foal. She was unraced.

Zabadak (Nevele Bigshot) was the next off the Leyava production line. He initially won five races for Henry Skinner including an impressive double at Wyndham in March 1981 culminating in the 3200 metre Wyndham Cup.

"Henry drove him to win on the first day but he decided to drive another horse in the stable (Eden's Joy off 40 metres 6th). Peter Davis drove on the second day and took him straight to the front and donkey licked them (4 1/2 lengths in 4-11.0 over 3200 metres on slushy track). At the time it was a Southland record."

At the end of that season Skinner decided he wasn't going to carry on training.

"Allan Devery phoned me and said would I consider sending Zabadak there as he was getting a bit more serious about training professionally. I said 'yes' as long as he took another horse called Stampede. Henry had qualified Stampede. Allan wasn't very sure about it so he rang Brendon Fahy, a good friend of mine. Brendon told him that if Zabadak won four races for him next season Stampede would win seven so Allan took him."

It was the beginning of a very fruitful relationship between Sellars and Devery.

"Allan was an outstanding conditioner and trainer and he won the next seven races with him (Zabadak). He won all eleven races with Stampede."



CONT.

One race that remains in Sellers' memory was the day Zabadak won at the Canterbury Park Trotting Club meeting in January 1983.

"He tried to kick Gavin (Hampton) out at the start. It was a mile race. He'd decided that they weren't going fast enough in the lead up and he started bucking and kicking. He was kicking himself right out the back by five and six lengths. He settled down and caught the field and Gavin, who could be pretty severe when he wanted, decided to send him around the field at the half. He beat the likes of Hands Down. That's the sort of horse he was. On his day he could beat anything."

His most important win was in the Firestone Cavillino Stakes on Cup Day 1983. He won eleven races from 64 starts banking \$53,325 in stakes.

At that point Zabadak's younger brother Stampede had also finished his racing career. He also won eleven races including the Interdominion Consolation, and he finished second in the Kaikoura Cup and third in an Easter Cup.

Sellers was keen to give him a shot as a stallion.

"I was keen for him to have that chance. He was a beautiful horse with a lovely nature. He had arthritic knees which restricted him a little bit as a racehorse."

He notched up a moderate record as a sire, helped by two quality horses in Defoe and Stands To Reason.

"At the height of his career he (Stampede) had 194 mares. It was the season when Defoe had won the Lion Red Mile and was dead unlucky not to win the Messenger. And Brendon Fahy's horse Stands To Reason won the \$150,000 Sires Stakes Final in Auckland (1990)."

Post Stampede Leyava had just two more foals, both fillies Saligna (Lumber Dream) and Sakina (Son Of Afella) and that's when a breeding arrangement with Brian West began.

"We had a few mares. Brian suggested that he would take them all up there, look after the stud side of it and prepare the progeny for sale. It never worked out that great. I can't blame Brian as

he used good sires. It was one of these breeds that seem to mix better with sires like Nevele Bigshot, Hundred Proof and Canny Scott."

The horse market back in the mid 80's was relatively buoyant and in February 1986 Sellers was offered big money for the unraced Saligna and Sapele.

"Sapele was trained by the Lees. She was about to go to the trials when I was approached by Paul Davies on behalf of John Curtin to see whether he could buy these two Lumber Dream mares. I said no because I didn't want to let two Lumber Dream mares go out of this breed. Anyway I put a price on them \$100,000 for Saligna (Lumber Dream - Leyava) and \$60,000 for Sapele (Lumber Dream - Socialite). He bought the \$100,000 one. I sent the other one (Sapele) to stud and she died."

From 11 named foals Leyava left seven winners of 55 New Zealand races. A grand record for a mare that was bred from a mare bought from the Rabbit Board fumigation cart!

Although the breed has faded somewhat, like many of the old pedigrees in this country there are still a number of mares that trace back to Leyava.

Brian West is breeding from a Mach Three mare named Titled who is a great granddaughter of Leyava. She has a qualified two year old called His Royal Harness who is trained by Chris McDowell and a Stunin Cullen yearling filly.

West is also breeding from two other granddaughters of Socialite in Flashbang (McArdle- Susan Who) and Famous Lover (Dream Ahead - Susan Who).

Well that's the Leyava story, and it's really only half the tale because of course foundation mare Pollyapolis's other filly Va Vite (by Young Bob) has also plenty of upside to her stud career.

She left Largs (Lordship) the dam of Glen Moria (10 wins) and handy performers Calton Hill (Smooth Hanover) 5 wins, and his full sister Churnside also 5 wins.

But another story for another day perhaps.

Bruce Stewart

'THE DON' OF NEW ZEALAND TROTTING

Even after death, the Sundon star stills shine.

The result of the New Zealand Trotting Derby last Friday night, won with a display of unrelenting speed by Marcoola, was a telling reminder that his legacy lives on.

The colt gave Sundon his 9th siring triumph in the race - a race he never won.

In 1989, trained in partnership by Fred Fletcher and his son-in-law Mark Smolenski, Sundon ran third to Idle Pride - trained by Bevan Heron - and his stablemate Arnees Frolic.

It was a catastrophe at the time; Sundon was unbeaten in 14 starts, and he would win his next three.

But sons and daughters have won where dad failed, and Marcoola is the latest but he may not be the last.

Marcoola is one of a crop of 42 live foals, now three, followed by 22 aged two, eight yearlings and nine being weaned. This season, a year after his death, 13 mares were covered.

Ken Ford, the West Melton part-owner with his son Clint and trainer of Marcoola, is one who is keen to breed again if he can.

"There is every possibility I'd send Arabess back to Sundon, and Zsa Zsa is another who could go as well. I'll have to find out who has the semen," he said.

From his first crop of 65 foals, seven Sundons made the Derby field and they ran 1st (Sunny Action), 2nd (Pat's Sun), 3rd (Goldon), 4th (Sun Seeker) and 5th (Galleons Paradise).

After Sunny Action came wins by Dependable, from All Action Son and Castleton's Mission; Sundon's Luck,



CONT.

from New Year Whiz and Crunch; Thedonsson, from Belle Galleon and The Brite Tradesman; Tozzie, from Jazz Legend and Harriet Hughes; Shirley Temple, from Jazmin Alicia and Hazel Maud; Ima G

Arabess, the winning dam of Marcoola, was by Grant Our Wishes, a sire Ken holds in fond regard, and for good reason. The best of his stock were Ado's Invasion (12 wins), Zuri (11), Superstar-ourwishes (7), Somerton Beau (7), Sea Spray Darling (9), Mamalu (9), Marie Wishes (10), Idle Wishes (7) and Aramid (10), and Ken had Zuri and Aramid. As a broodmare sire, Grant Our Wishes has left 15 individual winners, The Bog (by Monarchy) the best of them so far with seven wins, followed by Marcoola (six) and Goodboy Tiger (3). Besides Marcoola, there are two by Sundon – Sunnyandcher and Spirit Of The Sun.

The celebration of their on-track classic success for the Fords has since continued off the track: Tuesday of this week being the occasion of Ken and Diane's 47th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Mike Grainger

LAVROS LODGES WINNERS A PLENTY!

Kypros Kotzikas had a nice start to the weekend when Lady Lavra (2013 2 B f Bettor's Delight - That's Life Lavra), bred jointly with his late wife Mary, got the job done for Sam Ottley and Mark Jones at Forbury Park.

Fast forward to the Sunday meeting at Motukarara, and Lavros Lodge just about achieved an incredible feat. They were an Ella Lavra (2009 6 B m Sundon - Alla Marcia) gallop away from breeding the first three winners on the card! The other two winners being Volatile Lavra (2011 4 B m Christian Cullen - Lavra Maureen) and another two year old filly, Ariadne Lavra (2013 2 B f Art Major - Hilarious Lavra).



Sundon

SUNDON STATISTICS

New Zealand Trotting Records (72 in total);

15: Current Sire of NZ Trotting Records
27: Dam Sire of NZ Trotting Records

Major Trotting Races Sired

6: Rowe Cup's
6: Dominion Handicap's
9: New Zealand Trotting Derby's
3: New Zealand Trotting Oaks

NZ Progeny

Sire of 740 NZ Bred winners: 14 as Pacers and 735 as Trotters.

28011 Starters
2790 Wins
2508 Seconds
2325 Thirds

\$27,933,473 in stakes. If Marcoola can win the Northern Trotting Derby and the Harness Jewels this year, Sundon will crack the \$28 million mark in stakes earned.

New Zealand Stallion of the Year: 2002/03, 2004/05, 2006/07 and 2009/10

Australia

Australian Stallion of the Year: every season since 2003!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Brad Reid



Ella Lavra duly made up for her tardy start on Sunday and topped a fine 7 days off by winning the mobile trot at Addington Wednesday.

Volatile Lavra with connections after winning the second race on the card at Motukarara on Sunday



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- It is envisioned the syndicate will not only include the progeny of Auckland Reactor but also a proven Alabar sire.
- Fractional interests from 2.5% upwards will be available.

Register your interest now in the Alabar Racing Syndicate 2016 – early indications are spaces will be limited

Full details will be available after the 2016 Yearling Sales

For further information or to register your interest contact Ivan Behrnes - Alabar Syndicate Manager 03 615 6332, ivan@alabar.co.nz

Alabar (NZ) Ltd is an authorised syndicator



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